

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a special meeting on Thursday, December 22, 2011 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 7:30pm.

PRESENT:	Edward Magryta	----	Supervisor
	Holly Gokey	----	Council Member
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	Laurie R. Tautel	----	Council Member
	Mervin R. Livsey, Jr.	----	Council Member
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

Council Member Livsey left for an ambulance call.

Supervisor Magryta opened the meeting at 7:40pm.

Supervisor Magryta explained that there have been a couple of amendments to the water project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Grant asked if this was the final meeting.

Supervisor Magryta said there was a high probability that there will be a meeting next week.

WATER DISTRICT 2 ALTERNATIVE 6 – AMENDED PLAN

Supervisor Magryta said there has been some information provided to the Board by Folchetti because of the public concerns.

Mr. Folchetti handed out information to the public. Mr. Folchetti explained the proposed re-alignment and reviewed the new costs.

Council Member Gokey asked if there was a change made, would it affect the funding.

Mr. Folchetti said it would not because the same number of properties are being served.

Council Member Edsall thanked Mr. Folchetti and his team for their hard work.

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Supervisor Magryta questioned why this alternate path was not taken in the beginning.

Mr. Folchetti explained that he hoped to do this project without too many easements and he prefers not to work on state highways. Mr. Folchetti said that this new route will require an additional two easements.

Supervisor Magryta said the Board will need to know the relationship between the Town and Settlement pertaining to the cost of the easements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Armstrong asked why the Board decided to eliminate the lower portion of Oakwood.

Council Member Tautel said she had a problem with the original direction of the pipeline.

Greg Maher said he has a problem with paying for water pipes that are on private property.

Supervisor Magryta said the Town is a very unique environment and it is hard to run pipes on municipal land.

Doris Lent asked if the Town was going to apply for a hardship loan.

Supervisor Magryta said that Mr. Kelly would do the best he could for the Town with funding.

(Council Member Livsey returned 8:10pm)

Supervisor Magryta said that in 2005 the Town attempting to get water to the school, but the negotiations fell apart.

Council Member Livsey said he is still concerned about easements.

Bernie Cassidy would like to see the Board vote on this so it can move forward.

Supervisor Magryta said he intends to put it up for a vote before the end of his term, but the new information has only been available for 24 hours and more information is needed on easements. The Supervisor said he hopes to schedule one more session for the vote.

Mrs. Bucholz said she hopes the Board supports the amended version.

Dave Tonneson said the litigants support the new route with the cost savings.

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Supervisor Magryta set a special meeting for Tuesday, December 27, at 7:30pm.

BUDGET TRANSFER

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to transfer \$250 from A1220.0400 (Other expenses) to A1220.0407 (Communications expense).

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Livsey, Tautel)
0-nays

MINUTES

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to approve the minutes from the October 6 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Gokey, Edsall, Tautel)
0-nays
2-abstain (Magryta, Livsey)

POLICE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

Supervisor Magryta explained that Officer Elmer "Pete" Baker worked from 1978-2006, he left for a couple of months and then returned and asked for re-instatement. The Supervisor said that, for some reason, this request was denied and there is now a request that Officer Baker be credited with his 28 years of service. The Supervisor said that Officer Baker will sign a letter stating he will not be asking for any back wages.

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to re-instate Officer Baker's 28 years of service and seniority contingent on a letter of support from the PBA and a letter from Mr. Baker stating that he will not be requesting any back pay.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Livsey, Tautel)
0-nays

Supervisor Magryta has a request from Chief Quinn to appoint Kevin O'Connor to the position of Detective 3rd Grade for the Town of Highlands Police.

Council Member Livsey recommended that this be given to the new Board.

Council Member Gokey said there were some concerns brought out in executive session and she would like to address this sooner rather than later.

Chief Quinn said that Mr. O'Connor is very qualified.

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Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to appoint Kevin O'Connor to the position of Detective 3rd Grade for the Town of Highlands Police contingent on a background investigation and approval from Orange County with a salary to be determined by the contract.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Livsey, Tautel)
0-nays

Supervisor Magryta has another request from Chief Quinn to appoint Stephen Ragni to the position of Sergeant for the Town of Highlands Police.

Chief Quinn said Mr. Ragni is very qualified and an upstanding individual.

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to appoint Stephen Ragni to the position of Sergeant for the Town of Highlands Police contingent on a background investigation and approval from Orange County at a salary to be determined by the contract.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Livsey, Tautel)
0-nays

Supervisor Magryta said Chief Quinn informed him that the police records are in need of clerical support.

Council Member Edsall would like to table this for the next Board.

Council Member Livsey asked how many hours a week this individual would work.

Chief Quinn said less than 20. The Chief informed the Board that these positions are covered in the amount already allocated in his budget.

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to create a non-competitive clerical position for the Police Department subject to Civil Service requirements.

MOTION CARRIED: 3-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Tautel)
2-nays (Edsall, Livsey)

Supervisor Magryta said that during an executive session, the requirements for probationary period was determined to be 8 weeks. The Supervisor said that Chief Quinn has been on the job for 12 weeks and he would like the Board to make his status permanent.

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to give Chief Quinn permanent status after satisfactorily completing his probationary period.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Livsey, Tautel)
0-nays

OUTSTANDING COMMITTEE ISSUES

Council Member Gokey said if the Board intends to go with the Cyclical Reassessments, the agreement needs to be signed by December 31 to be eligible for state funding.

Supervisor Magryta asked what happens if it is not signed by December 31.

Council Member Gokey said the Town can't participate.

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Cyclical Reassessment agreement.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Livsey, Tautel)
0-nays

DEPARTING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Tautel wished everyone a very Happy Holiday, thanked everyone for allowing her to serve and wished the new Board good luck.

Council Member Livsey said it was an honor to serve this community and he intends to remain active as a volunteer and still support the children of the community.

Supervisor Magryta said he accomplished 75% of what he intended to and he is very happy with the work that has been done in the last 2 years. The Supervisor thanked the community for their support.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann Marie Feducia thanked Supervisor Magryta for everything he has done the last 2 years.

Jim Grant said the community was very fortunate to have him as the Supervisor for the last 2 years.

ADJOURN

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.